Solgen supports move to defer lethal injection

RP maids in Hong Kong protest contract fee hike

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Lacson boys cry foul over partisan charge



FPJ camp woos Guingona

Giant waves ram fishing boats; 3 die





But both sides say no deal yet

Charges filed today against Manapat

Main issue is who is best qualified to lead the country

ANALYSIS



DINAGYANG FESTIVAL

Migrating to the US? Here are some tips

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

Face poor, Poe dared



POE

No drug test, no post, warns Comelec



IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY
President Macapagal greets former President Cory Aquino on the latter's 71st birthday yesterday after the Mass celebrated at St. Joseph Convent in New Manila, Quezon City.

GMA project looks suspiciously like DPWH repair work

SC lets Barbers son keep his post

Name-dropping DOH exec explains note

Japan looking to May polls for improvements



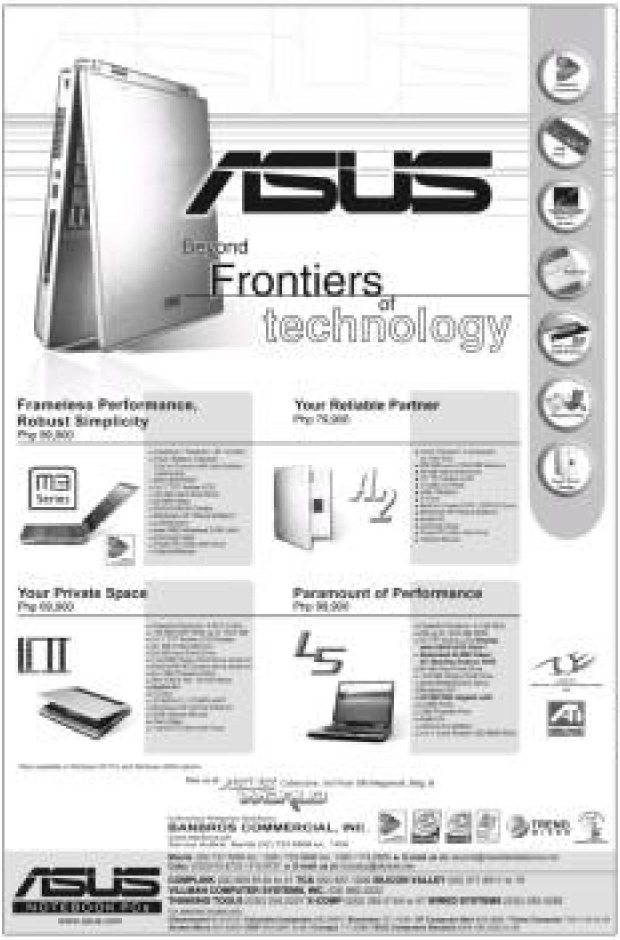


It's official: Bishop Bacani out of Novaliches diocese



Saudi crown prince aids conjoined twins

Firemen, jail guards to get raise



The Daily Gospel

Supreme Court Doctrines

Absent solons holding up bill to compensate Marcos victims

Lacson nixes pork anew

Gunmen raid Iligan village, killing 3

Youth have poll power, bets told

By Blanche S. Rivera

CANDIDATES in the May elections better have something for the youth.

The Commission on Population (PopCom) said Friday that voters aged 18-24 comprise almost 30 percent of the 42 million registered voters, making them a crucial bloc in the coming polls.

PopCom Director Tomas Osias said half of the country's nearly 84 million population is made up of those aged 24 and below. The Commission on Elections had noted that some 4.5 million of them registered to vote for the first time last year.

The PopCom further said that young voters would dominate the poll. Future presidential elections beginning this year because of their growing numbers.

"Elected leaders must not forget that young people account for the sizable number of those who will speak up in the elections. Their welfare should therefore merit an equally substantial response," said Osias in a statement Friday.

The Comelec estimates some 450,000 national and local candidates are running in the May 10 polls.

Osias urged candidates to address the reproductive health needs of the youth, whose risky sexual behavior has become a concern due to its effects on population and health.

PopCom data showed that 23 percent of Filipinos aged 15 to 24 engage in premarital sex, 7 percent of them without using contraceptives. The youth also account for 30 percent of all pregnancies every year, or a third of the 1.17 million Filipino babies born annually.

"We must not underestimate the power of the young," Osias said, adding that the earlier they are educated, the better they would be at making decisions, including those concerning the national leadership.

The World Health Organization had also expressed concern over the lack of reproductive health services and education for adolescents in Asia, citing the situation in the Philippines.

WHO Director for the Western Pacific Region Shigeru Omi urged governments to allocate more funds and improve services to their young constituents.

WHO officials are meeting on Jan. 27-30 to discuss regional reproductive health strategies for adolescents.

More officers face raps for Oakwood mutiny

No bird flu entered RP, DOH assures public

THE DEPARTMENT of Health yesterday assured the public that no poultry infected with the bird flu has entered the country in the wake of reports that a shipment of imported dressed chicken had been released without being cleared by authorities.

DOH spokesperson Lourdes [illegible] Villa said a furor was being spread by mobile text messages that 15 container vans of infected poultry had entered the country. Villa denied the rumor.

On Friday a shipment of dressed chicken from Taiwan reportedly arrived in Batangas and was allegedly released by the Bureau of Customs despite the ban on poultry imports from Taiwan and other countries hit by the bird flu epidemic.

The shipment was reportedly released without the clearance from the Bureau of Animal Industry and the National Meat Inspection Commission.

Six of the container vans, however, were recovered and impounded.

Four vans were intercepted in Batangas City and one in Sto. Tomas, Batangas on Friday while another was recovered in Parañaque on Saturday.

The shipment reportedly had no import permit and did not pass the veterinary quarantine clearance and BAI's quarantine division.

The reported release of the container vans is being investigated by a composite team from the Departments of Finance and Agriculture and the Presidential Security Group. All ports and cold storage facilities nationwide have been alerted.

Bird flu has been found in several Asian countries recently, killing six people and leading to the slaughter of millions of chickens. The disease, caused by the H5N1 strain of influenza A, affects both humans and animals. Symptoms of bird flu include fever, headache, body malaise, sore throat, cough and colds.

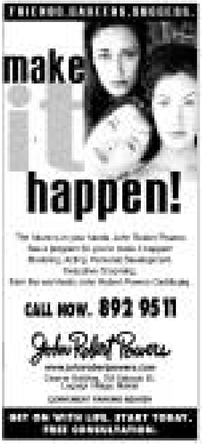
Villa said the department had not issued any warning not to eat chicken, as stated in the text messages. "It is still safe to eat chicken," she said.

The Philippines has banned poultry imports from most Asian countries with a history of chicken disease as a precaution against the spread of bird flu.

The ban includes South Korea, Japan and Vietnam, while Thailand, where officials on Friday confirmed the first two human cases of bird flu, will be added to the list soon, said Jose Molina, director of the Bureau of Animal Industry.

The Philippines doesn't import poultry from any of these countries, but decided to ban chicken products as a precaution, he said. Most of the poultry products are imported from the United States, Canada, Australia and Brazil.

"We have not been importing, but we are making sure we will not be issuing permits because of the risk," Molina said. *With reports from AP, AFP*





PWU fetes 1st woman DFA chief

THE PHILIPPINE Women's University will honor Foreign Secretary Delia D. Albert, the first woman to head the Department of Foreign Affairs, with a testimonial luncheon today at the Taft Avenue campus in Manila.

Dr. Amelou Benitez Reyes, PWU president, will give the welcome remarks, while Chancellor Dr. Dolores B. Lasan will introduce Albert.

Other speakers are Aurora de Dios, chair of the National Council on the Role of Filipino Women; Myrna Yao, president of the National Council of Women of the Philippines, and representatives of nongovernmental and international women's groups. The response will be delivered by PWU chair Dr. Helena Z. Benitez.

Fluent in German, French, Indonesian, Spanish and Japanese, Albert rose through the ranks in the DFA which she joined in 1967 as an assistant in the secretary's office.





IN ILOILO

[illegible]

Terror, crime on regional meet's agenda

[illegible]

No fees set yet, but toll road users must pay

[illegible]

Women's rights group sets meet, talk on UN



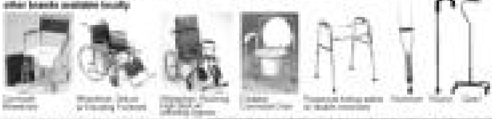


[illegible]

The WORLD

6 affected nations hold crisis talks on bird flu





Bird flu vaccine not likely this year



5 US soldiers, 4 Iraqis killed in new attacks

Existence of Iraq WMD an open question—Powell

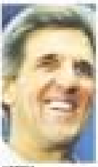
Israel, Hizbollah agree to exchange prisoners



CHINESE NEW YEAR IN PARIS

Georgia installs new president

Kerry continues to lead as Dean slides further



KERRY

2nd rover Opportunity touches down on Mars



HELLO VINCENT!

KELLY SUICIDE REPORT

Blair's future hangs in balance

Burma junta, Karen rebels end 50-year conflict

INQUIRER OPINION

Denied

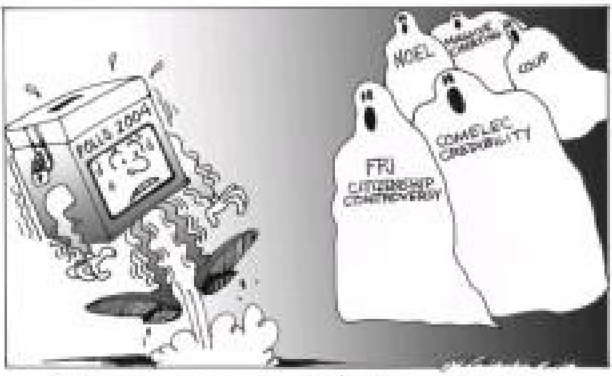
THE TIME has come for all parties involved in the Naia 3 controversy to cut their losses—before the campaign season overwhelms any attempt at resolution, before the controversy is manipulated into an election issue.

In May 2003, the high court annulled all five contracts awarded to the Philippine International Air Terminals Co., the project concessionaire behind the $500-million terminal. Last week, the tribunal upheld its ruling, holding that the contracts "made a mockery of the bidding process ... and must be annulled in their entirety for violating law and public policy."

Piatco's lawyers have promised to contest the decision by filing a second motion for reconsideration.

EDITORIALS

Railroaded



Some questions on FPJ citizenship issue

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

They're right

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

Graft cases vs Tancangco

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan



Lessons in grammar and news illustration

READERS' ADVOCATE

Raul J. Palabrica



Amina's Mindanao

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Antonio J. Montalvan II



So whatever happened to our concept of justice? Amina's food, jobs and shelter—without justice—will all be nothing but doles

The sky is falling! The sky is falling!

COMMENTARY

Dean Jorge Bocobo

RP politics requires a makeover

People who know about DFA passport project

Toward a more reliable PNP

Incomplete data delaying OK of water permit

Arbitrariness marred Comelec bidding

U-turn slot won't work in Makati

Across the NATION

Negrenses rally today vs death penalty

Militant Moro youths vow to campaign hard against FPJ

Bicol govs warn K-4 senatorial bets on endorsements

Misamis Oriental officials confused with governor's suspension

Documents show NPA backers–Solcom



ROTC studes to weigh, feed kids in Baguio

'Bad' experiences block mining approval

DOH warns of water-borne disease epidemic in Bicol

ROUNDUP

Robber captured

Suspected killer yields

Bayan member 'harassed'

3 bomb suspects held

Village dad survives ambush

Kalinga armed men nabbed

Farmer killed

GMA surprises town cops

Migrating to the US? Here are some tips

[illegible]

Proper legal advice

[illegible]

Torrent of amendments

[illegible]

Unscrupulous individuals

[illegible]

Don't compare

[illegible]

Tourists, students, etc.

[illegible]



IN PREVIOUS years, visa applicants would wait outside the US Embassy on Roxas Boulevard, Manila, for their "official pass" to greener pastures in America.

FPJ camp woos Guingona





Giant waves . . .



Charges filed today against Manapat

Lacson boys cry foul over partisan charge

Main issue is who is best qualified to lead the country

RP maids in Hong Kong . . .

METRO

Solgen backs move to defer execution

Says new info deserves 'hard look'

People's tribune

OSG duty

Finest hour

Innocent

FORT SANTIAGO
A nation's past calls out to the present



A re-creation

Sulayman's fort

Stroll through history



Baseco buries slain social worker

METROBRIEFS

Cop, suspect hurt

Honor for PAF chief

Grief workshop

MMDA declares war on rickety vehicles



Budget cut to stall expansion of Amang medical services



GIANT DUO
Two male ... along the Elliptical Circle in Quezon City, drawing the attention and admiration of the big weekend crowd in the busy park area.

Cops set up more checkpoints, chokepoints

By Tina Santos

Bill renaming Taft Avenue stirs protest

By Tara Quismundo

WHAT'S in a name?

'Arrogant' proposal

Diokno Avenue

Metrobank Foundation aids Baseco fire victims

THE METROBANK Foundation is donating ...

Old age allowance in Manila



LUNCH ALONG THE 'RILES'
Children of urban poor living along the railroad tracks in Blumentritt, Manila, crowd each other out to partake of a lunch of rice and fried fish organized on Sunday by human rights groups as a form of protest against too much politics in the country.

UP JMAA grand alumni homecoming

ENTERTAINMENT

1 killed, 2 critical, Bong Revilla's daughter hurt in car accident



John Ford Coley at the Big Dome



COLEY



AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Roddick, Agassi, Safin in last eight

MELBOURNE—Top-ranked Andy Roddick and defending champion Andre Agassi advanced to the Australian Open quarterfinals, moving a step closer to a semifinal showdown.



Suico in 2 tough tiffs



Bata strikes in Kentucky

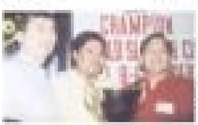




PBA stint a blessing for Wesley







Old Pacquiao foe to seek Pinoy's title

Rosales debuts in JW golf



Salud-Orillaza bet tops Slasher Cup unscathed

The BAP doesn't know its citizenship

BARE EYE



Recah Trinidad

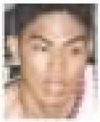
Basco gains q'finals

New NBC officers named

200 teams join Shaw golf

Baguio-South rules; 2 players score aces

Doves just too tough for Jaguars



DE OCAMPO

Bryant returns

Does Olympic need bowling?



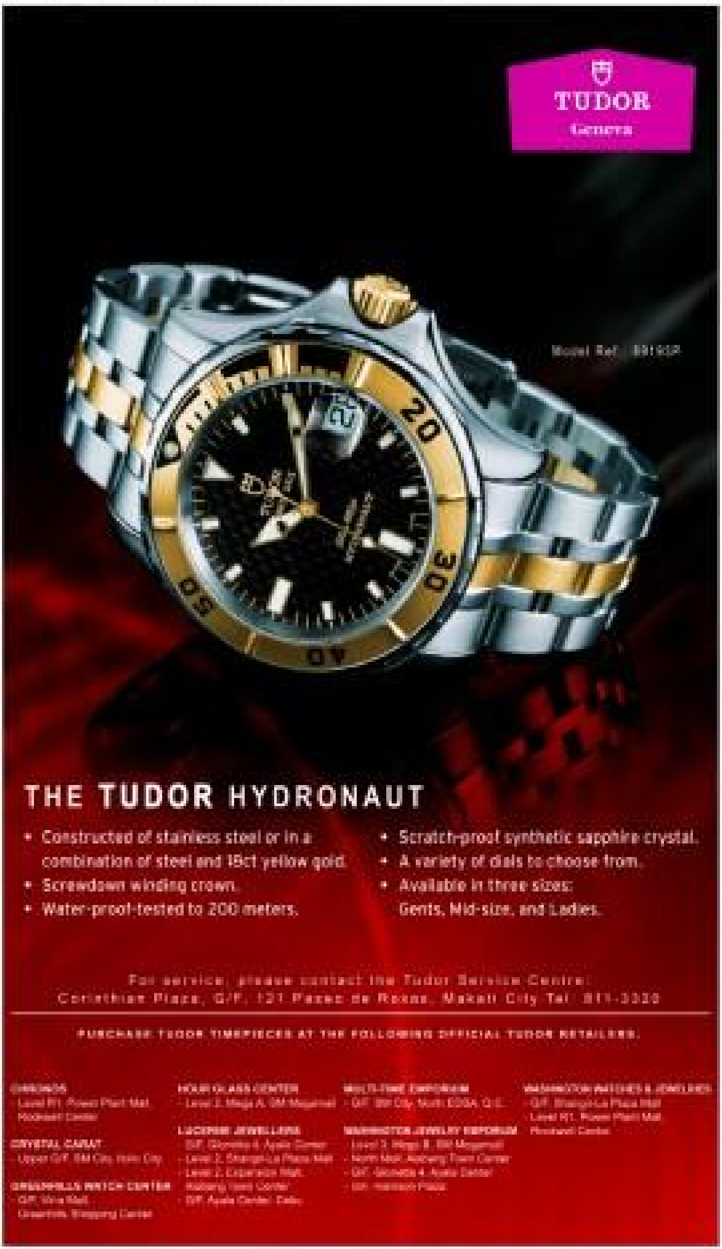
BUSINESS

Consunji firm loses license to sell securities

CURRENCIES

STOCK MARKET

Stocks seen to consolidate



DESPITE FALLING PESO

BSP says it won't intervene

Consumer price watch and price fixing

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General



One Network Bank: Power People

Napocor to bid out ₱178-M coal deal

RP removed from list of KR2 grant recipients



BEST COMPANY IN RP

BSP reviewing circular on banks' Dosri loans

DA sees 10% rise in palay output

Imported Indon tires seen hurting local firms

Fast ECC approval hailed

THE PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE, INC.
The Philippine Stock Exchange Centre
Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City

NOTICE

The public is hereby notified that **PRYCE SECURITIES, INC.**, a broker firm with registered address at 18/F Pryce Centre, 1179 Chino Roces Avenue corner Bagtikan Street, Makati City, voluntarily suspended its trading operations on December 4, 2002 and is in the process of settling its obligations to its clients.

All clients having any claims are hereby requested to file their written claims with:

The Philippine Stock Exchange, Inc.
Attention: Ms. Maria Lourdes A. De Guzman

The Philippine Stock Exchange Centre
Exchange Road, Ortigas Centre
1605 Pasig City, Metro Manila
Fax No. (632) 637-6811

Claim forms may be secured from the PSE during business hours on any day **before 27 February 2004**, after which date no claim shall be entertained.

For strict compliance.

THE PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE, INC.
The Philippine Stock Exchange Centre
Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City

NOTICE

The public is hereby notified that **ASIAN CAPITAL EQUITIES, INC.**, a broker firm with registered address at 25-B Rufino Tower Building, Ayala Avenue, Makati City, is in the process of liquidating all its assets pursuant to the Take-over Order issued to the Philippine Stock Exchange dated November 27, 2003 by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

All clients having any claims are hereby requested to file their written claims with:

The Philippine Stock Exchange, Inc.
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For strict compliance.

Consunji firm . . .

Inferior infrastructure

NO FREE LUNCH



Cielito F. Habito

Breaking out of the trap

Back in the vicious cycle

In the wrong places

What to do?

Gov't to raise revenue target

By Clarissa S. Batino

A new dawn for Richard

ACTOR Richard Gomez is indeed moving up to high places.

Gomez and his model wife Lucy Torres quietly acquired late last year a sprawling house and lot in North Forbes Park for less, according to the grapevine.

The property at 27 Tamarind Road was originally placed on the market for P62 million but the young couple managed to chase the price down to P57 million.

The Gomezes put in half of the purchase price themselves, with the remaining half paid, according to the grapevine, through a housing loan extended by BPI Family Bank.

Lot sizes in North Forbes typically are in the 1,500 square meter and higher neighborhood.

The Gomezes currently live in Greenhills.

Discounting the "rather unlikeable" two-level, shed-roofed house and the swimming pool, the Tamarind property, assuming that its area is "just" 1,500 sqm, would have cost the Gomezes about P38,000 a square meter.

Depending on the location, Forbes property prices now range anywhere from P35,000 to P46,000 a sqm.

In their new, more gentrified property, which according to the grapevine the young couple will remodel as they had done to their "substantial" Greenhills house, the Gomezes will have as neighbors the Prietos, the Sysons, the Tapalagnas, and the Concepcions, as well as their movie world colleagues, the Sagrado Reyeses.

A check last weekend showed no major renovation work has yet been started.

The Tamarind property, which for a long time had been rented to a foreign embassy, has been empty for some time now.

Its last tenant was a Chinoy businessman who has since moved to the Pacific Plaza Towers.

EPCIB agenda

THE BOARD of Equitable PCI Bank will meet tomorrow to discuss the planned divestment of the 29-percent stake of the Social Security System.

According to the grapevine, SSS president Corazon de la Paz has been opening to few details as to the whys and wherefores of the planned SSS divestment because she happens to be also the vice chair of EPCIB.

Being also former chief of the local PricewaterhouseCoopers here, De la Paz apparently knows how to parse and sift through the bank's accounting maze.

But financial analysts are still welcome to try their luck and pick her brains on Thursday when De la Paz speaks before a [illegible] Plaza Forum organized by the Philippine Stock Exchange and Bloomberg.

Spirit is willing

THE SO-CALLED "missionary routes," provincial destinations with little or irregular traffic, were supposedly money losers and that is why Philippine Airlines stopped servicing them.

However, Asian Spirit is proving there is money to be made on precisely such backwater routes, depending on the kind of aircraft and structure employed.

Asian Spirit chair Noel Oñate said their fledgling airline is acquiring three more British Aerospace advanced turboprop planes within the next 18 months, on top of the first ATP that had been delivered before Christmas.

Cocktails

Victor C. Agustin

The four 64-seater ATPs will be phased in to replace the four YS-11s that Asian Spirit is merely leasing from Mission Air.

One possible new destination: Vigan.

According to the grapevine, Ilocos Sur kingpin Luis "Chavit" Singson wants Asian Spirit to service the provincial capital, given the increasing road traffic between Ilocos and Manila.

To entice Asian Spirit, a new and more powerful radar has been acquired and installed in the Vigan control tower.

Heard through the grapevine

THE PORSCHE Converter fan club is expanding. Latest addition: Bingo Dy [illegible], thanks to a successful business deal with his buddy, San Miguel president Ramon Ang.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

Court stops ban on used-car importations

By Michelle V. Remo

THE OLONGAPO City Regional Trial Court has issued a temporary restraining order on the ban on the importation of second-hand vehicles, a move which local car makers warned could hamper the development of the automotive industry.

The TRO, which was signed by Judge Eliodoro Ubiadas of Branch 72 of the Olongapo RTC, was issued after importers of used vehicles filed a petition saying the ban would result in irreparable injury to the operations of their businesses.

The petition was filed by SMB Auto Mechanical Services, North Star Commercial Corp., Subic Diesel Machineries and Parts Inc., KPI Trading Corp., Tanco Inc., Wescan Motors Inc., Alliance of Volunteer Educators, United Guardians Party, and the Association of Philippine Second Owners.

The importers also argued that the government's Motor Vehicle Development Program, which included the provision banning the importation of used vehicles, was against the country's commitments to the World Trade Organization. They asked the courts to declare the ban unlawful.

"(The ban on used-car importations) is an absolute restriction (to international trade)," the importers said in their petition.

The MVDP aims to develop the country's automotive industry through measures such as granting of incentives to importers of completely built-up units (CBUs), rationalization of the auto excise tax and banning the importation of used vehicles.

PLDT seen surpassing ₱10-B income target



Plastics firms oppose SMC incentives

BSP says …

NTC seeks US agency's help on case of telecom execs

By Abigail L. Ho

Gov't to bid power projects

Gov't to raise revenue target



LIFESTYLE



The lowly wooden clog is a high-fashion statement. It is also Pinoy art at its best

Why I belong to the 'bakya' crowd

All4Art



'Bakya'



LifeStyle





Those awesome colonial Spanish watchtowers and fortress-churches

The structures along the Southern Cebu coastline form a series of lookouts, a warning system to detect the impending attacks of pirates and slave traders

SITUATED on a narrow stretch of land between sea and mountains, the stark architecture of Boljoon church is an image of strength.

PRIDE OF PLACE



Augusto F. Villalon

WE must be reminded of the architectural jewels strung along our coastline. They are national treasures for each Filipino to be proud of.

We are a coastal people because of our geography. Since pre-Hispanic times, Filipinos had mostly lived in seaside settlements on islands situated on different ends of a shared sea that linked people and provided their sustenance. Much further on, the same seas eventually linked early Filipinos with different people from other lands.

Life has always focused on the sea, an island tradition now forgotten by many urban Filipinos.

I lost my island tradition when I moved from the Cebu of my youth to Manila where life no longer focused on the sea. Fortunately in the mid-1990s, I rediscovered island life when I commuted regularly on the ferry between Dumaguete and Cebu while completing a study for Silliman University.

Unforgettable

The two-hour voyage hugged the Southern Cebu coastline. A series of stone watchtowers and massive Spanish colonial churches would come into view one after another, appearing in regular cadence as we sailed past. They were unforgettable images.

I was seeing the Heritage Trail, a succession of watchtowers and fortress churches built on the narrow ribbon of the land between sea and mountains of Southern Cebu Island. Each church squarely faces the sea. Some stand on a rise so their towers command a sweeping, unobstructed view of the surrounding seas. Built of quarried coral blocks quarried from the sea, their massive bulk and spartan volumes contrast with the leafy outline of palm leaves lining the coast and the saw-toothed profile of the green mountains behind.

The watchtowers and churches form a series of "lookouts," a warning system to detect unfriendly craft. During the Spanish colonial era, church bells rang to warn people of impending attacks by Muslim slave traders, signaling people to seek shelter inside the church behind the massive, barred doors.

The Augustinian military strategist-architect, Fray Julian Bermejo, built the fortification system in the 19th century. His watchtowers along the coast between the present day towns of Argao, Dalaguete, Boljoon and Oslob fended off Moro marauders and warned people to seek shelter in fortified churches.

Until recently many watchtowers have been left to decay, others have fallen into ruin. Churches and civil architecture are threatened by modernization.

The towns along the Bermejo Trail have joined forces and launched the "Cebu Heritage Frontier," a unified program to survey and safeguard structures, edifices and places with historic significance.

With technical assistance from the Ramon Aboitiz Foundation, the Urban Conservation and Resource Center of Cebu, and the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, the program includes protection for houses built during Spanish and American colonial eras and the pre-and post World War II periods.

Turn to C4



FORTIFIED Boljoon Church stands at a vantage point on a bluff overlooking the sea.



THE CACERES Watchtower, one of the links in the 19th-century Boljoon Trail of Fortifications in Southern Cebu

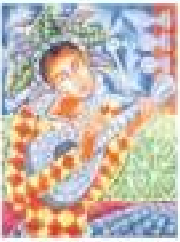
Those awesome . . .

[illegible]

Re-use

[illegible]





"HARLEQUIN," by Mario Parial



"BALLET," by Bayani Ray Acala

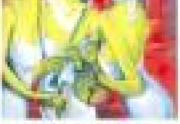
Tribute to music opens gallery's season



"HABANA," by Augusto Antonio



"SPANISH Flamenco," by Marcel Antonio



"FESTIVAL Music," by Lydia Velasco

Luna bust, works and 19th-century documents on display



"ITALIAN SOLDIER," Roma, 1880



BUST of Luna by Mariano Benlliure, 1884

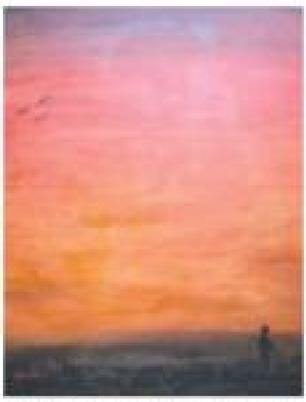


"PARISIAN LIFE," 1892

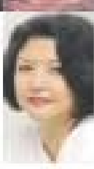
Blessing

Landscapes show an environmentalist's passion





MARCELO'S works evoke nature at its purest.



EMILY Marcelo